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A NEW *VELIA* FROM PERU, AND THE DESCRIPTION
OF THE MALE OF *VELIA HELENAE* HUNGERFORD
(HEMIPTERA: VELIIDAE)

JOHN T. POLHEMUS, 3115 South York, Englewood, Colorado 80110

ABSTRACT—The male of *Velia helenae* Hungerford, found in bromeliads, and a new species, *Velia atra*, are described from Peru.

Through the courtesy of Dr. P. Wygodzinsky of the American Museum of Natural History, I have been permitted to study a small collection of semi-aquatic Hemiptera from South America, which included the veliids treated below.

***Velia helenae* Hungerford 1929**

Velia helenae Hungerford, 1929, Ent. Tidskrift 50: 146-147 (Callanga, Peru. Type in Riksmuseum, Stockholm).

This beautiful species was described from a single female, and the male has been unknown. As males are included in the present series, they are described below.

Macropterous male:

Of moderate size; head, thorax and entire venter orange red; beak, antennae, and legs rather uniform deep brown; hemelytra velvety blackish brown, almost black, veins not prominent, each with two large white spots, one near the base and another on membrane; last two genital segments brownish. Pronotum and head sparsely clothed with short decumbent brownish pubescence, longer and denser on lateral margin of pronotum, collar and frons, the latter with 10 to 12 minute conical black setae on each side of midline. Venter sparsely clothed with longer brownish pubescence.

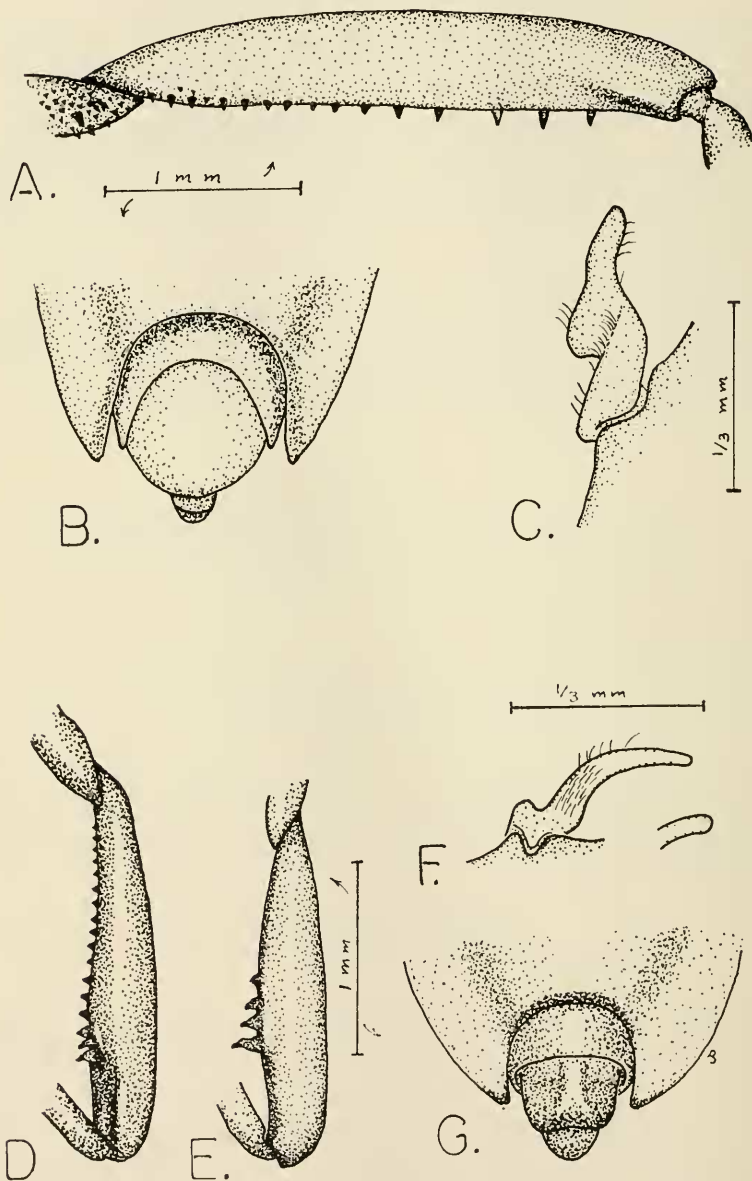


Fig. 1, *Velia* spp. A-C, *atra*, n. sp.: A, posterior femur and part of trochanter (hairy vestiture not shown); B, genital segments, ventral view; C, left ♂ genital clasper. D-G, *helenae* Hungerford: D, posterior femur, posteroventral view (hairy vestiture not shown); E, middle femur, posterior view (hairy vestiture not shown); F, left ♂ genital clasper and tip of clasper; G, genital segments, ventral view.

Pronotum faintly carinate on midline, deeply pitted posteriorly, pits shallower anteriorly; lateral margins narrowing anteriorly, slightly convex, humeral angles not prominent, slightly raised, lateral margins at shoulders parallel; rear margin sinuate, slightly thickened, lengthened posteriorly, broadly rounded; collar set off by a row of pits, interrupted medially; anterior angles wider than eyes, sharply rounded; width/length: 123/123. (For all measurements, 60 units equal 1 mm.)

Head impressed on midline; vertex convex, higher than eyes; with a deep pit near the rear of each eye on vertex, each with a shallower pit between it and posterior margin; rostrum reaching between middle coxae.

Antennae moderately long, slender; first segment curved, thickest; second segment thicker than three and four; length of antennal segments I-IV, 48: 40: 45 (including nodule): 44.

Legs relatively short; femora thickened, posterior and middle femora armed, as shown in fig. 1 D and E respectively; tibiae unarmed, slender; measurements of front, middle and hind femora, 88: 103: 134; measurements of front, middle and hind tibiae, 76: 108: 140; front tarsi, I-III, 5: 12: 20; middle, 6: 16: 21; hind, 6: 20: 23.

Genital segments as shown in fig. 1 G. Male paramere as shown in fig. 1 F, curved into the plane of the paper and twisted slightly; distal portion as shown; thin, blade-like.

Length, 5.6 mm.; width, 2.1 mm. across humeri.

Material examined: 5 ♂♂, 7 ♀♀, 1 nymph, all macropterous, Peru, Huacapistana, 1800 m., Dep. Junin, July 27-30, 1965, P. & B. Wygodzinsky. Most specimens in the American Museum of Natural History, 2 ♂♂ and 2 ♀♀ in the author's collection.

Dr. Wygodzinsky has kindly furnished the following notes on the ecology of this interesting *Velia*: "All specimens were found in the moist portion inside large terrestrial bromeliads growing on cliffs. Generally, there were from 2 to 4 specimens inside one plant. The area where these plants grew was quite dry; possibly secondarily because it is situated within the level of a cloud forest. The forest, however, has been cut down and burned completely and the vegetation is quite changed. It is possible, therefore, that these bromeliads, the name of which I do not know, are invaders."

Other veliids of striking appearance live in bromeliads, and this species, the prettiest veliid known to me, is added to that list. It is easily separated from its congeners by the coloration and armature of the femora.

Velia atra, n. sp.

Holotype: Macropterous male.

Large, brown, slender. Head and thorax brown to light brown; hemelytra velvety chocolate brown, veins lighter, each with a small white spot at base and large ovate white spot in membrane; venter dark brown; legs fuscous to dark brown; first antennal segment dark brown.

Pronotum slightly carinate on midline, carina weak behind middle, evanescent anteriorly; deeply pitted posteriorly, replaced by weaker pits on anterior lobe; lateral margins narrowing anteriorly, more sharply from humeri to demarcation

of anterior lobe; anterior lobe marked off by rough row of pits; collar marked off by row of pits which is evanescent medially; humeri raised slightly, moderately prominent, lateral margins at shoulders parallel; posterior margin sinuate, slightly thickened, weakly acuminate at apex; width/length, 154/184 (For all measurements, 60 units equal 1 mm.); dorsal surface sparsely clothed with short golden pubescence, longer on anterior lobe.

Head with median longitudinal furrow, terminating before posterior margin; with a large pit near the rear of each eye on vertex, another smaller pit between large pit and posterior margin and slightly more central; thickly clothed with short brown pubescence; ratio of width of eye/interocular space, 22/36; width of head through eyes/length, 78/50; rostrum reaching to middle coxae.

Antennal segment 1 stout, curved, 68 units (1.13 mm.) long; segments 2, 3, and 4 missing.

Legs moderately long, thickly clothed with semi-short brown hairs; longer hairs on posterior surface of femora and tibiae, as long as diameter of tibiae; measurements of front, middle, and hind femora, 126: 154: 190; of front, middle and hind tibiae, 110: 150: 203; of front tarsal segments I-III, 7: 20: (missing); of first tarsal segments of middle and hind legs, 4: 4; all other tarsal segments missing; armature of hind femora and part of trochanter as shown in fig. 1 A; posterior trochanter armed with many evenly set small teeth and one larger tooth as shown; middle and anterior legs unarmed.

Genital segments as shown in fig. 1 B. Male paramere as shown in fig. 1 C. Length 7.9 mm., width (across humeri) 2.64 mm.

Holotype, macropterous male, Tingo Maria, Huan., Peru, Oct. 10, 1946, Alt. 2200 ft., J. C. Pallister; in American Museum of Natural History.

Velia atra, n. sp., is set off from its congeners by its large size, color markings, and the character of the male genitalia.

TAXONOMIC AND NOMENCLATRURAL NOTES ON *GONODONTA OBESA* (WALKER)

(LEPIDOPTERA: NOCTUIDAE)

E. L. TODD, *Systematic Entomology Laboratory,*
*Entomology Research Division, Agr. Res. Serv., USDA*¹

ABSTRACT—The following new synonymies are noted: *Gonodonta* Hübner (= *Dosa* Walker); *G. obesa* (Walker) (= *Canodia* ? *camora* Felder and Roggenhofer).

In 1864, Walker (List of the specimens of lepidopterous insects in the collection of the British Museum, pt. 31, pp. 131-146) placed 13 genera and 24 species in the family Melameridae. The family was

¹ Mail address: c/o U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C. 20560.